

Message Text

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70

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PC-10 USIA-15 SCI-06 IO-14 INR-10

DODE-00 AGR-20 INT-08 COME-00 SWF-02 EB-11 CIAE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 IGA-02 SP-03 L-03 DRC-01 /176 W

----- 107573

R 101112Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8935

INFO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: COTONOU-GAO GRAIN TRANSPORT

REF: A. STATE 95973; B. BAMAKO 1143

1. WE ARE TOTALLY HUNG UP HERE.

2. ON APRIL 29 DOUKARA CALLED ME TO ASK IF THERE WERE ANY OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS BEFORE HE LEFT FOR HIS CAMPAIGN TRIP. I ASKED WHETHER HE HAD RECEIVED ANY RESPONSE TO HIS DEMARCHES TO DAHOMEY AND NIGER BECAUSE WE WERE VERY ANXIOUS TO BEGIN SHIPMENT OF 500 TONS COTONOU TO GAO. HE SAID HE HAD NOT RECEIVED RESPONSES BUT HE HAD LEFT WORD THAT I SHOULD BE INFORMED IF THERE WERE. FURTHER, HE TOLD ME TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH HIS DIRECTEUR DE CABINET ALIOU LY WHO COULD CONTACT HIM, DOUKARA, AT ANY TIME. ON MAY 6 I INFORMED LY THAT WE WISHED TO BEGIN THE CONVOY AND ASKED HIM WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY RESPONSE FROM NIAMEY AND DAHOMEY. HE SAID

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HE KNEW ABSOLUTELY NOTHING ABOUT IT BUT WOULD TELEGRAPH

DOUKARA. ON MAY 7 LY CALLED ME TO SAY THAT HE HAD A RESPONSE FROM DOUKARA TO THE EFFECT THAT HE WOULD RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM WHEN HE RETURNED "IN ABOUT 10 DAYS". I ASKED LY WHAT WE SHOULD DO ABOUT THE CONVOY AND HE SAID IT HAS TO WAIT UNTIL DOUKARA'S RETURN. HENCE, BAMAKO 1143.

3. WE HAVE NO IDEA WHETHER DOUKARA'S DEMARCHES WERE EVER RECEIVED IN DAHOMEY AND NIAMEY. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HIS UNWILLINGNESS TO PERMIT THE CONVOY TO PROCEED IS BASED UPON THE LACK OF RESPONSE FROM NIAMEY AND DAHOMEY OR WHETHER IT IS BECAUSE HE IS SO BUSY CAMPAIGNING THAT HE HAS NO OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS AT THE BORDER AND FOR THE RECEPTION OF THE GRAIN IN GAO. (PROBABLY BOTH.) THE GOM IS PUTTING THE HIGHEST PRIORITY ON THIS CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION, AND VIRTUALLY EVERY MEMBER OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE IS OUT IN THE BRUSH, SPEAKING ALL DAY LONG. DOUKARA HIMSELF IS IN THE REGION OF KAYES. WE HAVE TRIED TO GET A DIALOGUE GOING WITH LY ON THE SUBJECT BUT HE REFUSES EVEN TO COMMENT SUBSTANTIVELY WITHOUT CHECKING WITH DOUKARA AND THERE IS NO ONE ELSE TO TALK TO. (I HAD, DURING ONE OF DOUKARA'S PREVIOUS ABSENCES, TRIED TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH CHEF DU CABINET MILITAIRE SANOGO, BUT IT WAS A NON-STARTER.)

4. PERHAPS COTONOU AND NIAMEY COULD FIND OUT IF THE MALIAN COMMUNICATIONS HAVE EVER BEEN RECEIVED. LOCAL SOCOPAO AGENT HAS ASKED EMBASSY TWICE WHAT THEY SHOULD DO ABOUT THE 500 TONS DESTINED FOR GAO BUT IN ABSENCE OF A GO-AHEAD FROM GOM WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO RESPOND.

5. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES I AM AT A LOSS AS TO HOW TO FURTHER THIS PROJECT UNTIL DOUKARA RETURNS. IN ANY EVENT, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD ASCERTAIN ATTITUDES DAHOMEY AND NIAMEY BEFORE PROCEEDING, E.G., WE HAVE NOTED COMMENTS DAHOMEY OFFICIALS THAT GOM SHOULD GIVE THEM A DIPLOMATIC NOTE BEFORE SHIPMENTS BEGIN. I AM CERTAIN DOUKARA BELIEVES HE HAS ALREADY DONE SO. ALSO, WOULD BE HELPFUL IF I COULD PROVIDE DETAILS OF THE SHIPMENT SUCH AS WHETHER PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE FOR FUEL, BEFORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAKING ANOTHER APPROACH TO GOM.
MCGUIRE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Draft Date: 10 MAY 1974
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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